

Someplace Safe

Agency History

1979 Based in Fergus Falls, Region IV was incorporated to serve 9 counties: Clay, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin, Ottertail, Becker, and Douglas.

Regional Crisis Shelter opened in Fergus Falls.

1984 Musical benefit "Free To Be You And Me".

1985 Musical benefit "Moving Right Along".

1990 Community Advocacy offices were opened in Glenwood-Pope County, Morris-Stevens County, Wheaton-Traverse County and Breckenridge-Wilkin County. Becker and Douglas Counties were assisted in getting grants for advocacy programs.

1st Annual Awards Banquet

Dating violence survey done by child advocate with regional teens.

1992 The Ottertail County Intervention Project was established.

1993 Safe Exchange/Visitation Center was established in Fergus Falls.

1994 Community advocacy office was opened downtown Fergus Falls for non-shelter women to seek assistance such as Orders of Protection.

Runestone 60's concert nets \$8,004 donation.

The shelter became a public health site with a nurse/educator in the shelter approximately 10 hours per week to meet with residents and make necessary referrals.

Shelter buys a van.

ECFE provides classes to mothers and children in the shelter one day a week.

Ottertail Intervention Task Force presents at National Conference Against Domestic Violence.

1995 DHS funds were received to open a visitation center with Lakes Crisis Center in Detroit Lakes and to provide continuation funds to the Fergus Falls site.

Kenny Rogers Benefit Concert

Elder Abuse Grant

1996 CJI Projects were funded in Wilkin, Traverse, and Grant Counties.

A community advocacy office was opened in Elbow Lake/Grant County.

Got Internet Service in shelter and outreach sites.

The ability to accept collect calls and the "800" number was added to the 24-hour crisis line for all of the advocacy programs in the 9 county areas.

- 1997** Major research study with Marion Kershner, Ottertail Public Health, 1700 surveyed.
- Ottertail County FEMA funds are distributed through Region IV to individuals needing help with first month's rent, utilities, and for hotels for the homeless.
- Board sells transitional houses.
- 1998** Active involvement in the Violence Prevention Council for Ottertail, Stevens and Traverse Counties. Related funding from the Department of Children, Families, and Learning to work on domestic violence and the work place issues.
- Big Stone County "Women's Advocacy Resource Center" becomes a program of Region IV.
- A special VAWA project was started in Perham to improve CJI response and a Bremer grant was received to open the outreach office.
- Involved in court ordered divorce education classes presenting on the effects of divorce on children.
- Started a Safe Exchange Center in Morris.
- 1999** 1st family referred through Day One.
- Intervention Task Force started for Eastern half of Otter Tail County (meetings held in New York Mills)
- 2000** Rothsay School partnership to add ½ time advocate to school from Region IV. Advocate meets individually with students, teachers, and does presentations.
- Ottertail County received Child Abuse grant from CFL to fund child advocates to work with children who witness domestic violence.
- Began a 18 month Special Project "Safety & Follow-up Support"
- Moved main office to 121 West Vasa in Fergus Falls. Administration, Community Advocacy, Ottertail County Intervention Project, Child Abuse Program are located there.
- 40 women murdered in MN; 65 children without moms
- Special Project Grant to provide services/education in Pelican Rapids
- Safe Exchange changes terminology from "visitations" to "Parenting Time".
- School group in Perham
- 2001** Received \$5,000 Sexual Assault Awareness grant for Pope, Grant, Traverse, & Big Stone Counties
- Partnership with Legal Service of Northwest Minnesota for Domestic Violence work
- Working agreements with Adult Services Otter Tail County Human Services
- Provided Training for 3 departments of Lake Region Hospital (Emergency, Birthing Suite, and Bridgeway)
- Interagency meetings with Child Protection Workers and advocates from Otter Tail County
- Sheila Wellstone at Shelter in May of 2001

Received funding for Board and Staff Retreat

Secured contract with Stevens County for parenting times and exchanges for Steven's County residents

Elbow Lake office closed but services will continue to be provided

Contract with Listening Ear to provide Sexual Assault services for Stevens County

Big Stone office expands space

Secured grant from Pope County

Hired maintenance staff for Fergus Falls offices

2002 Shelter upstairs recarpeted and newly decorated

Traverse office moves into Courthouse

Co-sponsored workshop at Bigwood Event Center with National speakers – "Children Caught in the Middle"

Received 22-month special VAWA project for Perham, New York Mills, Henning, Parkers Prairie, Pelican Rapids systems work

Emphasis on recruiting new volunteers

Restructuring and 4 new manager positions created

Wellstone's attend August Banquet

Contract for U of M Morris for weekend Sexual Assault coverage

2003 Region IV Council on Domestic Violence changes name to Someplace Safe effective August 1st.

Landscaping & concrete work for Shelter to remove steps

Shelter Living Room re-carpeted

Child Abuse Grant ended

Dick Beardsley Keynote Speaker for July Banquet

T-shirts, Raffle, Yard Sale, Grocery Store Receipts, Crisis Cuisine Frozen Foods as Fundraisers

Clothesline Project display throughout region

1st Vigil & March in Wahpeton/Breckenridge

2004 Moved office to new location in Glenwood

Tea Fundraiser in Fergus Falls

Friends of Someplace Safe form in Pope and spread to Big Stone & Wilkin Counties

Secured expanded contract with University of Minnesota Morris to provide advocacy, collaboration and training with University

Funding redistribution process through MN Dept. of Public Safety, OJP, resulted in loss of Wilkin, Traverse, Grant CJI grant and gain of grant for sexual assault services in Pope and CJI/Outreach office in Grant Counties,

and Traverse County Advocate hours went down to 50% of FTE.

Grants Committee formed to work on writing grants.

Staff worked on fundraising activities such as: Pennies for Peace; Coins for a Cause, selling angels, garage sales.

Celebrated 25 years of providing services at Bigwood Event Center in July with Dueling Pianos performing.

Sponsored Clergy Conference in Glenwood and Fergus Falls in September.

Sponsored Health Care Providers training in Fergus Falls and in Morris in October.

First Annual Candlelight Vigil and March held in Perham in October.

First Power Walk held in Glenwood in October.

Elbow Lake office had Open House in October.

It's Time to Talk Day events sponsored in Elbow Lake and Ortonville in October.

Open House in Shelter for 25 hours of service in December

2005 Someplace Safe's Tea Party was held in Fergus Falls at the Westridge Mall in February.

In April we revamped our mission statement and created a vision statement. Our new vision statement is "Someplace Safe for everyone" and our new mission statement reads: "To create a safer world for everyone, we work to eliminate violence and oppression through advocacy, education and service".

Our Awards Banquet was moved to Glenwood and held in April. Charles Glared was the keynote speaker.

Meth. Workshops were sponsored by Someplace Safe in Fergus and in Glenwood in May. Karen Eden's was the trainer.

Starting in July we received state funding to provide sexual assault and general crime services in Otter Tail County.

July 29th we had a silent auction and entertainment fundraiser with Dueling Pianos at the Elks.

In October a number of men in Fergus Falls walked in high heels from Pamida to the Courthouse and reflected on how violence affects the lives of women. It was called "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes".

In November was the first annual "It's a Girl Thing" fundraiser in Breckenridge with over 200 attending. Ortonville held a chili supper, silent auction and displayed the clothesline project and had a swing band for entertainment. The fundraiser "Come to the Cabaret" was held at the Lakeside Ballroom in Glenwood.

In December the Parenting Time Center staff participated in the KWAD Radiothon to End Child Abuse.

In 2005, Strangulation became a felony.

2006

January: Judge Thomas Stringer died suddenly. He was a champion who helped start the Intervention Task Force in 1992.

April: Awards Banquet in Fergus Falls with Cyndi Cook, MCBW, Keynote speaker
Walk Against Child Abuse was a success in Browns Valley

Leigh Lake becomes board member of West Central Area Agency on Aging

July: Temporary interim services began for victims in Douglas County at State of MN request

Networked with Miss Minnesota International who appeared at numerous events throughout our area

Glenwood Friends sponsored a "Bags and Brownies" fundraiser

Breckenridge "It's A Girl Thing" fundraiser was sold out

Website is up and running

October: Parenting Time Center Services began in Perham
25 professionals assisted Someplace Safe in presenting to 563 students at Minnewaska HS

December: Ellen & George Palmer donated their home in Parkers Prairie to Someplace Safe

2007:

February: An OJP grant was received to provide domestic assault, sexual assault and general crimes services in Douglas County.

March: The Douglas County Someplace Safe office opened with a manager, a full time sexual assault & general crimes advocate and a full time and a half-time domestic violence advocate. Minnewaska FOCUS Group was chosen to participate in the First Teen Summit and Girls Rock the Capitol held with the Annual Violence Against Women Action Day. Parenting Time Center Services began in Big Stone County

April:

Lundy Bancroft presented in Glenwood
First Annual Poetry event held in Otter Tail County

May:

Long time Executive Director, Dianne Long retired
Douglas County began receiving knitted shawls from "Sheila's Shawls and Paul's Scarf's" a part of the National Silent Witness Program.
The sexual assault Task Force began meeting in Douglas County
Pope County office moved to 10 1st Avenue Southwest in Glenwood.

June – August:

Jill Fazio hired as Interim Executive Director

August:

Jeanne Jacobs hired as Director
Emergency Order for Protection procedure adopted in Otter Tail County.
Pope held First Annual Lowry Days Car Show and Bake Sale. Someplace Safe float in Lowry Days Parade

September:

The domestic violence Task Force began meeting in Douglas County
First Annual Queen's Feast Fundraiser held in Perham
First advocate hired in Parkers Prairie 4 hours a week
First two families move into Parkers Prairie transitional house

October:

Someplace Safe teamed with two other Douglas County entities for the 1st
Annual "Taking Steps Against Violence" walk. About 150 people joined the walk.
Off-Site parenting times began

A Day at Bill's Fundraiser held in Big Stone County
New shelter van purchased from Pelican Rapids Police Auction

November Douglas added another advocate half-time.
Grant County Commissioners allocate funds to the Someplace Safe office.
Parenting Time Center Services began in Pope County

December

Douglas had the first fundraiser, "It's in the Bag" purse auction
A new team building process began within the organization at the All Staff
Someplace Safe invited on GAL statewide advocate workgroup

2008

January:

Douglas County combined two part time positions into one full time position for group facilitation and volunteer coordination.
Sheila attends CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute in Washington DC
Stevens County Office joins the Morris Chamber of Commerce

February:

Edith provides interim services in Grant County
February Tea fundraiser was moved to the Bigwood Event Center

March:

New Victim information folders completed.
Tastefully Simple donated \$1000 to Douglas County
University of MN Morris Service Learning Project develops data base for use by Someplace Safe
Wilkin County advocate certified with Safe at Home.
Individual staff mission statements and core values were discussed for the purpose of
Identifying and developing an agency philosophy
Payroll & billing became computerized through Peach Tree.

April:

Elbow Lake office moved to a smaller space
Erin Koehntop hired as 16 hour per week CJI advocate.
Pope County begins providing CJI services with Erin as first part-time CJI advocate.
First art exhibit held at Westridge Mall Creative Hope; Healing Our Pain with "Ease"
Child Abuse Prevention Walk in Wheaton
Child Abuse Prevention Walk in Browns Valley

In FY 2007-2008, The Office of Justice Programs revised their fiscal year to align with the federal fiscal year of October 1st - September 30th.

May:

Awards Banquet held at Pebble Lake Golf Course in Fergus Falls. Brian Baustain of U-Can Committee, in Alexandria, part of MN Men's Action Network was guest speaker.

Douglas County organized an Advanced OFP Training at the courthouse with four advocates from the 8th Judicial District attending. Douglas County hired an additional full-time sexual assault & general crimes advocate.
REA grant for \$1000 received in Douglas County

Pope County held first Men's Luncheon; Don't Stand by, Stand up to end violence.
Pope County United Way grant received for Parenting Time Center and victim services

Agralite Electric Trust Grant of \$250.00 was received for Ortonville office
Health Fair booth was held in Ortonville

Health Fair in Wheaton

Good Touch – Bad Touch presentations done at West Central Area School in Grant County

Expanded Parkers Prairie advocate to 8hrs/week.
Hired 8 hr/week advocate in Fergus Falls
Held 1st Annual Spring Tea fundraiser in Parkers Prairie

UM Morris holds “Bread and Bowls” Fundraiser for Someplace Safe and Morris Food Shelf.
Effectively Addressing Sexual Abuse in Communities Professionals Training held in Morris.
Domestic Violence Support Group offered again in Stevens County
Website for Stevens County Task Force is in progress.

Board of Directors became involved in a year long Board Leadership Academy.

June:

University of Minnesota Contract renewed through April 2009 for Stevens County
Advocate has hours at the UM Morris one day a week beginning in August, 2008
Erin begins work in Stevens County one day per week

Law Enforcement Training held in Wilkin County for 1st time in 10 years. Traverse County
Law Enforcement also participated.

July:

Stevens County Advocate attends CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute
in California

A Human Resources position was added to the organization.